Government have issued advertisments cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

Further, LPG distributors are also under instructions to ensure 100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers' premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisafaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customers to verify the correctness of the weights of LPG in the cylinders. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors, godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instruction to check the weight of cylinder at their godowns before delievery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified and shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Blending of ethanol

†578. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making any effort to sell the 10 per cent ethanol mixed petrol at national level;

(b) what is the percentage of sale of ethanol mixed petrol at present and the amount of ethanol required for it every day;

(c) the quantity of the availability of ethanol as of now; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to meet this shortage of ethanol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decided on 9.10.2007 to make 10% blending optional from October, 2007 and thereafter mandatory from October 2008. Since the issue of modification of the engines are involved for 10% blending, IOC (R&D), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Society for Indian Automobiles Manufacturers (SIAM) have been requested to study the issue and to finalise the technical specifications for the implementation of ethanol with petrol in consultation with all the stake holders.

(b) At Present 5% ethanol mixed petrol is being sold and total requirement of ethanol for 5% blending in notified States and Union Territories is 60 Crore litre per year which comes out to approx. 1600 KL per dav

(c) and (d) As against industry's requirement of 180 crore litres of ethanol for a period of three years, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been able to contract 140.4 crore litres and they have so far procured 24.2 crore litres under the programme (as on 25.2.2008).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, the shortfall is due to levies/taxes on ethanol imposed by the different States. The matter has been taken up with the concerned State Governments to reduce/remove the duties and taxes on ethanol meant for doping with petrol. Some of the States like Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya pradesh and Jharkhand have recently exempted/reduced the import and export fee.

Manpower in oil and Gas PSUs

579. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent employees working in PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry as on 31st March, 2007, unit-wise; and

(b) the number of contract/casual/contingency workers working in these units as on 31st March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The number of permanent employees working in the major PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry and the number of contract/ casual/contingency workers working in these PSUs are as under:

(As on 31st March, 2007)

Name of the PSU	Number of permanent employees	Number of contract/casual/ contingency/workers
ONGC	33810	17495
IOCL	29862	20031
HPCL	10891	18585
BPCL	13968	3250
GAIL	3474	8762
OIL	8476	2799
EIL	2551	1

Procurement of LPG cyclinders from Norway

580. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to procure domestic LPG cylinders from a Norwegian company;

(b) if so, the features of the new LPG cylinders to be procured from the Norwegian company;

(c) the terms and conditions on which such LPG cylinders would be procured;

(d) whether the safety aspects of such LPG cylinders have been taken into account; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?